UNITED
NATIONS

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United Nations
Conference
on Trade and
Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/WP/116
13 July 1999

Original : ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Working Party on the Medium-term Plan
and the Programme Budget
Thirty-fourth session
Geneva, 27 September - 1 October 1999
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA *

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3. Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing

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   (a) Competition law and policy

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7. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

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* As approved by the Working Party at its thirty-third session on 29 January and resumed thirty-third session on 28 May 1999.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 - Election of officers

1. In accordance with rule 63 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board, the Working Party shall elect its own officers. Following the thirty-first session of the Working Party, and in accordance with the cycle of rotation, the Chairman at its thirty-fourth session shall be a representative of one of the States members in List A (Asia). The Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur shall be a representative of one of the States members in list D.

Item 2 - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (TD/B/WP/116)

2. The provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Working Party as approved on 29 January 1999 appears in section I above. A note on the organization of work of the session will be circulated at the opening of the meeting.

Item 3 - Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing

3. The report on technical cooperation activities, which is being submitted both to the Trade and Development Board at its forty-sixth session and to the Working Party at its current session, has three parts:

An overview of technical cooperation activities (TD/B/46/3-TD/B/WP/117)

This document provides data and information on last year's developments in UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities, including prospects for the mobilization of extrabudgetary resources and cooperation between UNCTAD and other organizations. A brief analysis of the distribution of activities among countries, regions and programmes is also given. Furthermore, as requested by the Trade and Development Board at its forty-fifth session, the Report contains information on the simplification of the three-year technical cooperation plan. It reports on the ways and means to ensure a better relative balance in the share of technical cooperation activities among the various regions, taking into account their respective needs as well as making maximum use, in the implementation of technical cooperation activities, of existing capacities of developing countries, including local and regional expertise.

Annex I - Review of activities undertaken in 1998 (TD/B/46/3-TD/B/WP/117/Add.1)

The information contained in this document is organized on a programme-by-programme basis. It describes the activities undertaken by UNCTAD in 1998, their background, justification, impact and results.

Annex II - Statistical tables (TD/B/46/3-TD/B/WP/117/Add.2)

This document provides information, in the form of statistical tables, on trends in expenditures by source of funds, on financial contributions and on technical cooperation projects.

4. Following its review, the Working Party may wish to recommend to the Board at its forty-sixth session a draft decision providing guidance on UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities.

Item 4 - Evaluation of technical cooperation programmes:

(a) Competition law and policy (TD/B/WP/119)

5. At its twenty-fourth session, the Working Party decided that in future annual reviews of technical cooperation, the UNCTAD secretariat should submit to it an in-depth study on a technical cooperation programme of UNCTAD "which will allow the Working Party to better evaluate the programme, recommend follow-up action and enhance UNCTAD's comparative advantages". At its thirty-second session, the Working Party "decided that an in-depth evaluation of the competition law and policy programme be considered at the next session of the Working Party in 1999 dealing with technical cooperation".

(b) Follow-up to the evaluation of the Trade Point Programme (TD/B/WP/120; TD/B/WP/121 and TD/B/WP/122)

6. The Working Party considered at its thirty-second session an in-depth evaluation of the Trade Point Programme prepared by an independent, outside evaluation team. At its thirty-third session, the Working Party in paragraph 9 of its agreed conclusions "invited the secretariat to prepare a Trade Point Programme strategy for further consideration by the Working Party, thereby paying particular attention to the content of the evaluation report and to the deliberations of the Working Party thereon". This strategy should contain proposals on the financial and technical feasibility of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report. In the same paragraph the Working Party further requested that "in this context the secretariat should prepare a comprehensive report detailing all the activities undertaken

to implement various mandates entrusted to it since the inception of the Trade Point Programme". In paragraph 11 of the agreed conclusions, the Working Party "invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to report to the thirty-fourth session of the Working Party on the follow-up action pursuant to the recommendations in the evaluation report as well as on the implementation of these agreed conclusions". Consequently, the Working Party will have before it the strategy for the Trade Point Programme, contained in document TD/B/WP/120; the report detailing all the activities undertaken to implement the various mandates since the inception of the Trade Point Programme, contained in document TD/B/WP/121; and the report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD requested in paragraph 11 and contained in document TD/B/WP/122.

Item 5 - Provisional agenda for the thirty-fifth session of the Working Party

7. The UNCTAD secretariat will submit to the Working Party for its consideration a draft provisional agenda for its thirty-fifth session.

Item 6 - Other business

Item 7 - Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

8. The final report will be compiled under the authority of the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur, taking into account the proceedings of the final (closing) plenary meeting, for submission to the Trade and Development Board.